Recent Proceedings of Societies.

Academy of natural sciences, Philadelphia.

Nov. 3.— Professor Heilprin took occasion to call attention to a series of cuttings along the line of the new Baltimore and Ohio railroad, in the neighborhood of Fifty-eighth Street and Gray's Ferry road. The exposures run through the glacial drift, red gravel overlying the bowlder clay at Fifty-eighth Street to a height of five or seven feet, and resting immediately in a straight line on the top of decomposing gneiss without any interposed yellow clay. He had been informed by Mr. Aubrey H. Smith, that, contrary to the usual disposition, a stiff blue clay underlies the gravel at Gray's Ferry. —— Mr. Thomas Meehan referred to the recent poisoning of children who had eaten roots which were asserted to be those of the wild parsnip. Inquiry into similar cases had frequently determined the noxious roots to belong to Cicuta or Conium maculatum. He had, however, planted a root of the kind eaten by the Danville children, and had found, when it sprouted, that it was, in fact, the ordinary garden parsnip, Pastinaca sativa. He had since been led to believe that when raw and in the spring the common parsnip is very acrid, and in some cases poisonous. Cooking, of course, renders it entirely innocuous. —— Mr. Redfield stated that when a child he had been warned against touching the wild parsnip, which grew in abundance in his neighborhood. He found, however, that he could handle the plant with impunity, although on a relative it had almost the same effect as poison ivy. —— Mr. Wm. V. McKean, referring to a paper on the coloring of autumn leaves, recently published by Mr. Charles Morris, inquired the reason for believing that the change of color indicated approaching decay in the leaf while it was regarded as a sign of perfection in the fruit. For his own part, he regarded the change in the leaf and in the fruit as of essentially the same nature, and as preceding, in each case, decay and death. That the distinction indicated was not a valid one was evident from the fact that highly-colored leaves sometimes remain perfectly healthy long after the ripe fruit has decayed. —— Mr. Morris regarded the coloring of fruit as an indication of the perfection of the seeds, and therefore a corresponding perfection of their envelope. The functional activity of leaves decreases and their protoplasm is withdrawn into the plant as the change of color progresses, while the contrary, he held, was the case in fruit. —— In answer to Mr. McKean, Professor Heilprin stated that he had not observed anywhere in Europe an autumnal change in foliage corresponding at all to the vivid colors of the American forests in October. The vegetation of the Mediterranean area would correspond to some extent with that of our southern states, but the climate of central Germany might be compared with our own. In the region referred to, however, the maples, beeches, and oaks presented no such tints as those with which we are familiar. As an indirect evidence that this was the case in Europe generally, it might be remarked that autumn landscape painting was essentially an American art. It is said that one of Bierstadt's gorgeous views of Rocky Mountain scenery had actually been rejected by the committee of the Paris Salon on the ground that such tints as the artist had put on his canvas were impossible in nature. The American consul afterwards certified to the correctness of the coloring, and the picture was accepted. The speaker held that while the coloring in both leaf and fruit precedes a loss of vitality, in the case of the former the change occurs somewhat nearer the close of its career as an organ. He referred to Mr. Wharton's investigation on the cause of the change of color in leaves. —— Mr. Meehan regarded the change of color in leaves and fruit to be much more of a vital than a chemical process. Trees which abroad remain dark green until the end of the season, if transplanted to America, will retain this peculiarity for several years, until the check on high vitality produced by change of surroundings will eventually produce a tendency to change of color in the autumn. Branches of maple which have been injured will sometimes become scarlet in midsummer. An apple, if taken from the stem while green, will never become red, although it might have done so if left on the tree, indicating the necessity for continued vital activity, although chemical changes may, of course, have something to do with the effect produced.

Cincinnati society of natural history.

Nov. 3.—Dr. W. A. Dun gave an account of the exploration of a mound in Greene county, Ohio, in which an unfinished slate ornament and a perfect arrow-point were found. He also referred to the examination of a number of graves in Ross county, Ohio. There were fifteen or twenty of them in a ten-acre field. They were circular, and each one was from twenty to twenty-five feet in diameter, and about fifteen inches high. Copper beads, pieces of mica, and stone ornaments were found, besides great quantities of bones. The writer regarded these graves as those of modern Indians, and thought also that the small mounds spoken of by Squier and Davis as found at Mound City, only a few miles away, as probably having the same origin. —— Dr. Dun also read a paper on the cicada in Ohio. About two miles from Cincinnati the cicada first made its appearance on May 28. By June 21 they had entirely disappeared. To Dr. Riley's list of counties where the locusts were found, Dr. Dun could add Hamilton, Butler, Montgomery, Clark, Madison, Champaign, and Ross. —— Prof. Jos. F. James presented a paper on the Cephalopoda of the Cincinnati group. In this were given descriptions of all the genera and species of the class found in the rocks in the vicinity. The original authorities had been consulted whenever possible. Keys to the genera and species were added for the use of students, and a bibliography appended. Forty-one new members were elected.

Calendar of Societies.

American academy of arts and sciences, Boston.

Nov. 11.— Allan Marquand, A new logic machine.

Society of arts, Boston.

Nov. 12.— Frederic Tudor, Improvements in steam-heating; S. H. Woodbridge, Application of solar heat to the warming of buildings.

Appalachian mountain club, Boston.

Nov. 11.— William M. Davis, Mountain meteorology; Mr. E. B. Cook, Round Mountain; An excursion over Mounts Nancy, Anderson, and Lowell.

Anthropological society, Washington.

Nov. 3.— Otis T. Mason, Basket-making among the lower races; Wm. H. Holmes, The use of textiles in the decoration of pottery.

Publications received at Editor's Office, Nov. 2-7.

Allen, Grant. English worthies. Charles Darwin. Ed. by Andrew Lang. London, *Longmans*, 1885. 8+206 p. 12°. (New York, Scribner & Welford.)

Bary, A. de. Vorlesungen über bacterien. Leipzig, *Engelmann*, 1885. 6+146 p., illustr. 8°. (New York, Stechert, $1.10.)

Bastian. Afrika's osten mit dort eröffneten ausblicken. Heft i. Berlin, *Dümmler*, 1885. 64 p. 8°. (New York, Stechert, 45 cents.)

Baur, G. Note on the sternal apparatus in Iguanodon. (Leipzig, 1885.) 2 p. 8°.

Branche, L. Le chlorure de sodium et les eaux chlorurées sodiques eaux minérales et eaux de mer. Paris, *Baillière*, 1885. 295 p. 8°. (New York, Christern, $2.)

Circulating capital: being an inquiry into the fundamental laws of money. London, *Kegan Paul, Trench & Co.*, 1885. 8+410+44 p. 16°. (New York, Scribner & Welford.)

Cullerre, A. Magnétisme et hypnotisme. Paris, *Baillière*, 1886 [1885]. 8+381 p., illustr. 12°. (New York, Christern, $1.35.)

Delvaux, E. La verité sous la carte géologique de la Belgique, par un géologue. Bruxelles, *Gobbaerts pr.*, 1885. 16 p. 8°.

Doberck, W. Observations and researches made at the Hongkong observatory, 1884. Hongkong, *Noronha & Co., pr.*, 1885. 165 p. f°.

Fischer, B. Lehrbuch der chemie für pharmaceuten. Hälfte ii. Stuttgart, *Enke*, 1886 [1885]. 14+[386] p., illustr. 8°. (New York, Stechert, $2.60.)

Geinitz, F. E. Uebersicht über die geologie Mecklenburgs. Güstrow, *Opitz*, 1885. 30 p., map. 4°.

Hess, W. Das süsswasseraquarium und seine bewohner. Stuttgart, *Enke*, 1886 [1885]. 4+255 p., illustr. 8°. (New York, Stechert, $2.20.)

Jungfleisch, E. Manipulations de chimie. Paris, *Baillière*, 1886 [1885]. 4+1240 p., illustr. 8°. (New York, Christern, $9.)

Kalkowsky, E. Elemente der lithologie. Heidelberg, *Winter*, 1886 [1885]. 8+316 p. 8°. (New York, Stechert, $3.)

Kittler, E. Handbuch der elektrotechnik. Band i., hälfte 1. Stuttgart, *Enke*, 1885. 296 p., illustr. 8°. (New York, Stechert, $3.30.)

Kobelt, W. Reiseerinnerungen aus Algerien und Tunis. Frankfurt-a.-M., *Diesterweg*, 1885. 8+480 p., figs. 8°. (10 marks.)

Lehmann, O. Physikalische technik speciell anleitung zur selbstanfertigung physikalischer apparate. Leipzig, *Engelmann*, 1885. 12+419 p., 17 pl., illustr. 8°. (New York, Stechert, $3.)

Mundt, W. Essays. Leipzig, *Engelmann*, 1885. 18+386 p., 8°. (New York, Stechert, $2.60.)

Noire, L. Logos ursprung und wesen der begriffe. Leipzig, *Engelmann*, 1885. 18+362 p., illustr. 8°. (New York, Stechert, $3.)

Schmarsow, A. Francisci Albertini opvscvlvm de mirabilibvs novae vrbis Romae. Heilbronn, *Henninger*, 1886 [1885]. 25+77 p. 12°. (New York, Stechert, $1.50.)

Struempell, L. Die einleitung in die philosophie vom standpunkte der geschichte der philosophie. Leipzig, *Böhme*, 1886 [1885]. 8+484 p. 8°. (New York, Stechert, $2.50.)

Thurston, R. H. A text-book of the materials of construction. New York, *Wiley*, 1885. 18+697 p., illustr. 8°.

Titcomb, S. E. Mind-cure on a material basis. Boston, *Cupples, Upham & Co.*, 1885. 288 p. 12°.

Trelease, W. Observations on several zoogloeae and related forms. (Baltimore, 1885. 24 p., 1 pl.) 8°.

Trolle, A. Das italienische volkstum und seine abhängigkeit von den naturbedingungen. Leipzig, *Duncker*, 1885. 12+147 p. 8°. (New York, Christern, $1.10.)

Trouvelot, E. L. Sur la structure intime de l'enveloppe solaire. Paris, *Gauthier-Villars, pr.*, 1885. 29 p., 1 pl. 8°.

——— Murs énigmatiques observés à la surface de la lune. Paris, *Gauthier-Villars*, 1885. 4 p. 8°.

——— Observation d'un essaim de corpuscules noirs passant devant le soleil. Paris, 1885. 3 p. 4°.

——— La planète Saturne en 1885. Paris, 1885. 4 p. 4°.

——— Remarquable protubérance solaire. Paris, 1885. 2 p. 4°.

——— Remarquables protubérances solaires diamétralement opposées. Paris, 1885. 3 p. 4°.

Uhland, W. H. Kalender für maschinen-ingenieure, jahrg. 12, 1886 Leipzig, *Baumgartner*, 1885. 4+281+19 p., map, illustr. 24°. (New York, Steiger, $1.10.)

Vambery, H. Das türkenvolk in seinen ethnologischen und ethnographischen beziehungen. Leipzig, *Brockhaus*, 1885. 12+638 p., 2 pl., illustr. 8°. (New York, Westermann.)

Virchow, R. Bayern's untersuchungen über die ältesten gräber- und schatzfunde in Kaukasien. Berlin, *Asher*, 1885. 10+60 p., 16 pl., illustr. 8°. (New York, Steiger.)

Watt, W. Economic aspects of recent legislation. London, *Longmans, Green & Co.*, 1885. 20+167 p. 12°. (New York, Scribner & Welford.)

Wells, D. A. Practical economics. New York, *Putnam*. 1885. 8+259 p. 8°.

White, C. A. On new cretaceous fossils from California. Washington, *Government*, 1885. (Bull. U. S. geol. surv., 22.) 14 p., 5 pl. 8°.

Williams, S. G. Geological relations of the gypsum deposits in Cayuga county, N.Y. New Haven, *Amer. journ. sc.*, 1885. 8°.

Woeikof, A. Flüsse und landseen als produckte des klima's. Berlin, *Gesellsch. zu erdk.*, 1885. 18 p. 8°.

——— Temperaturänderungen mit der höhe in bergländern und in der freien atmosphäre. Berlin, *Meteorol. zeitschr.*, 1885. (18 p.) 8°.

Wood, J. G. Nature's teachings. Boston, *Roberts*, 1885. 10+533 p., illustr. 12°.

Zittel, K. A., **Schenk,** A., und **Scudder,** S. H. Handbuch der palaeontologie. Band i., abtheil. ii., lief. 4. München, *Oldenbourg*, 1885. [284] p., illustr. 8°. (New York, Christern, $2.95.)